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Attitudes Toward the Axis Peoples

Trend Report Based on Three Nation-Wide Surveys

(6,094 Interviews)

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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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Attitudes Toward the Axis Peoples

THE GERMAN PEOPLE

During the past sixteen months the number of Americans with opinions who believe that the German people are **incurably warlike** has remained constant. About one in four Americans holds this opinion.

On the other hand, the proportion of Americans who believe that the German people are **essentially opposed to war** has decreased from 45 per cent to 32 per cent.

Today almost half of all persons with definite opinions (46%) think that **a tendency to follow bad leadership** is the basic fault of the German people.

THE JAPANESE PEOPLE

In February '42, a plurality of the public (48%) considered the Japanese **incurably warlike.** Today a clear majority (62%) think so. This change is probably due to such incidents as the execution of the Tokyo flyers.

Sixteen months ago one person in five said he thought the Japanese **do not like war.** Today only one in eight holds that opinion.

In all three surveys about twice as many people lack definite opinions about the Japanese people as about the Germans.

QUESTION AND SIGNIFICANT BREAKDOWNS ON THE MOST RECENT SURVEY

"Which of the following statements comes closest to describing how you feel, on the whole, about the people who live in Germany (Japan)?

a. "The German (Japanese) people will always want to go to war to make themselves as powerful as possible.

b. "The German (Japanese) people may not like war, but they have shown that they are too easily led into war by powerful leaders.

c. "The German (Japanese) people do not like war. If they could have the same chance as people in other countries, they would become good citizens of the world."[1]

	Always Want War	Too Easily Led	Do Not Like War	No Opinion
GERMANY				
Total[2]	22%	46%	32% = 100%	3%
By Age				
21-39	18	51	31	2
40 and over	25	41	34	3
By Education				
Some or Completed College	25	52	23	1
Some or Completed High School	19	48	33	2
Grammar School Graduate or Less	23	40	37	5
By Section				
New England and Middle Atlantic States	19	47	34	2
Midwest	18	48	34	1
Mountain and Pacific States	21	43	36	*
South	30	43	27	6
JAPAN				
Total	62	27	11 = 100%	7
By Education				
Some or Completed College	53	34	13	6
Some or Completed High School	62	26	12	4
Grammar School Graduate or Less	66	23	11	11
By Section				
New England and Middle Atlantic States	59	29	12	6
Midwest	65	24	11	6
Mountain and Pacific States	63	22	15	4
South	60	30	10	11

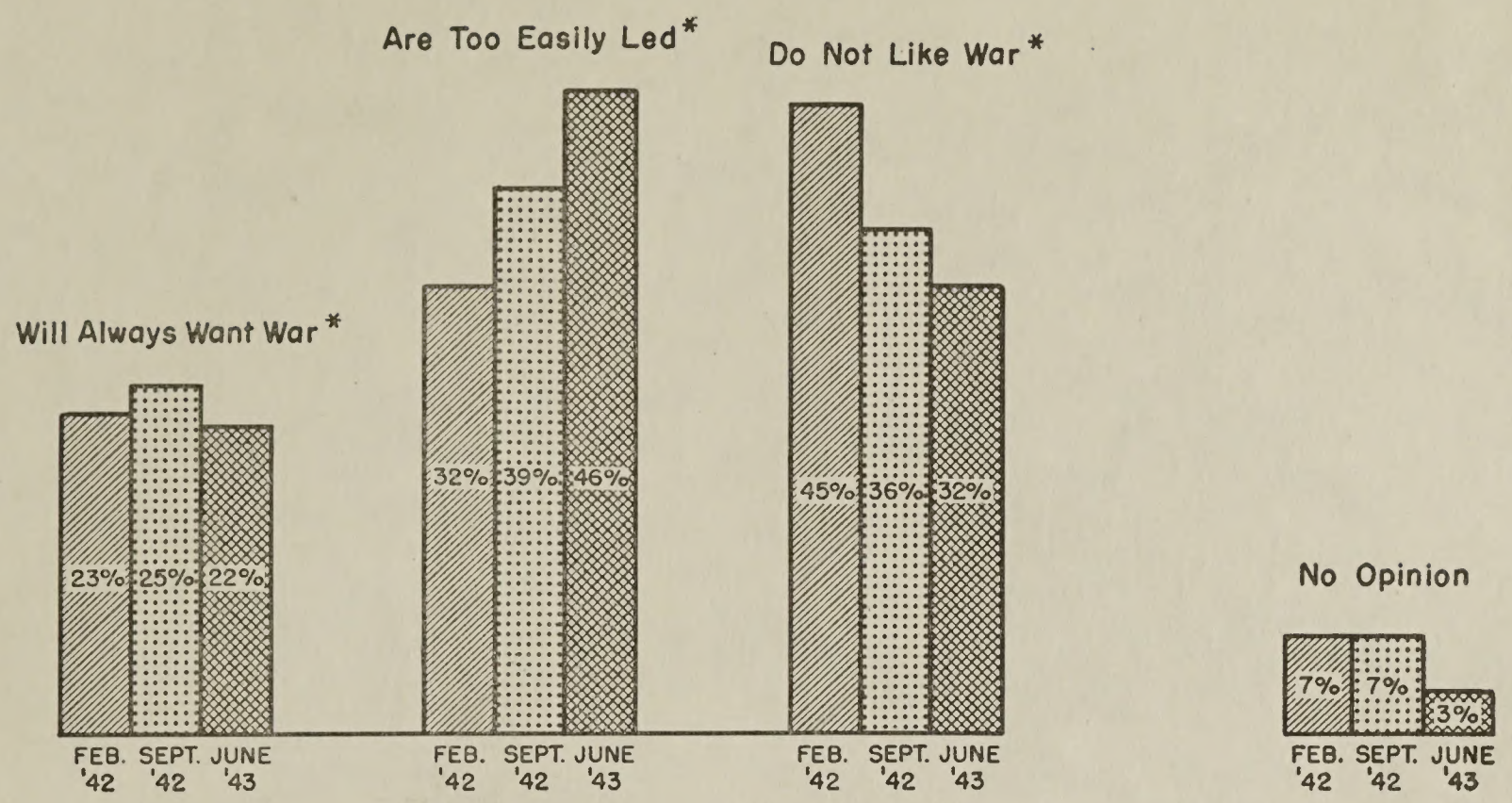
[1]On the February, 1942, survey this alternative read: "The German (Japanese) people are like all other people. If they could really choose the leaders they want, they would become good citizens of the world."

[2]Number of interviews is as follows: February, 1942—2,537; September, 1942—1,000; June, 1943—2,557.

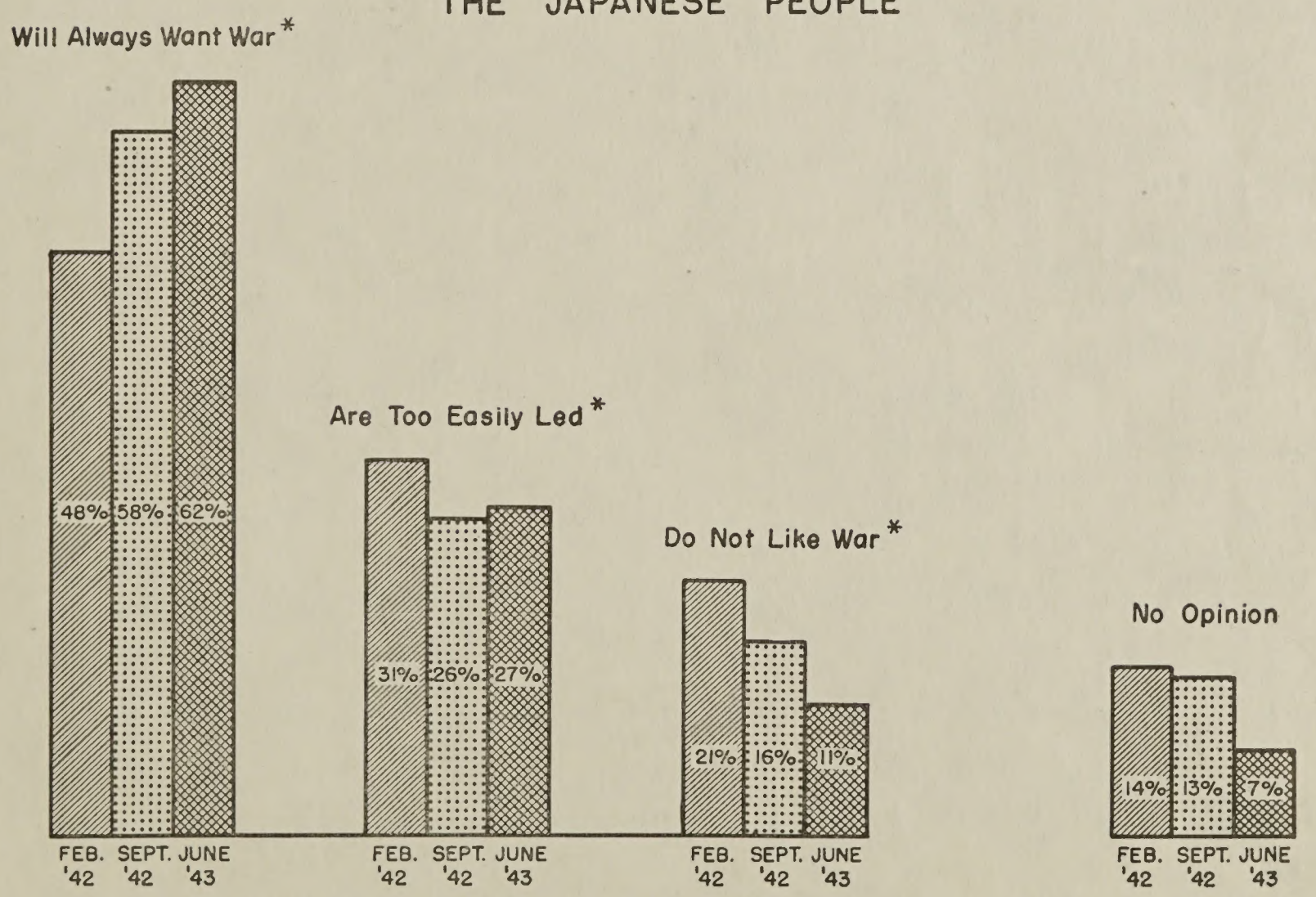
*Less than 0.5%.

N.O.R.C will be glad to send additional information regarding the national cross-section and methods used in the surveys on which this report is based.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE



THE JAPANESE PEOPLE



* *Percentages exclude "No Opinion"*

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